

# Open letter to EU member states from consumer groups, NGOs and industry representatives in support of the ePrivacy Regulation

December 3rd, 2018



Dear Minister,

We, the undersigned organisations, support the much-needed efforts to reform Europe's ePrivacy legislation. The reform is essential to strengthen individuals' right to privacy and confidentiality of communications across the EU as well as rebuilding and reinforcing public trust and security in the digital economy.

As representatives of consumers groups, NGOs and industry, we are concerned by the lack of progress of the Council of the EU towards finalising a General Approach on the draft ePrivacy Regulation. We urgently call on you to reach an agreement, so that the legislative process can continue without undue delay.

Ever since discussions on the reform were launched nearly two years ago, the Council has made very little progress. This weak progress is happening despite the clear and urgent need to strengthen privacy and security of electronic communications in the online environment, in the wake of repeated scandals and practices putting people's rights at risk and undermining the image of the industry as a whole.

The reform of the ePrivacy framework is necessary to deliver effective confidentiality and security of modern online communications, to ensure clarity of the legal framework, and to restore public trust in the digital economy. A strong ePrivacy Regulation represents an opportunity for EU businesses and it will support privacy innovation in the Digital Single Market. The current surveillance-driven business model of a few large players is not only distorting the advertising and other online markets but also severely undermining the fundamental rights of people living in the European Union and endangering our democracy. Undermining or further slowing down the reform at this stage would send the wrong message to people and industry: they expect the EU to protect their rights and interests against practices that undermine the security and confidentiality of online communications. It is high time to act.

As you meet tomorrow to discuss the reform, we urge you to conclude the negotiations to deliver an upgraded and improved ePrivacy Regulation for individuals and businesses. We stand ready to support your work.

Yours sincerely,

<b>Civil society and consumer groups</b>	<b>Industry</b>
Access Now	Brave
ApTI - Association for Technology and Internet	Kantara
BEUC - The European Consumer Organisation	Lavabit Piwik PRO ProtonMail

Bits of Freedom	Qwant
CILD - Coalizione Italiana Libertà e Diritti	Startpage
Civili	Startmail
Chaos Computer Club	TeamDrive
D3 - Defesa dos Direitos Digitais	Tresorit
Dataskydd.net	Tutanota
Digitalcourage	ValidSoft
Electronic Frontier Norway	WeTransfer
Electronic Frontier Finland	
Epicenter.works	
European Digital Rights	
Fitug	
Frënn vun der Ënn	
Homo Digitalis	
Hermes Center	
Initiative für Netzfreiheit	
IT-Pol - IT-Political Association of Denmark	
IuRe	
Open Rights Group	
Panoptykon Foundation	
Privacy International	
Vrijsschrift	
Xnet	